

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson  
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street. S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

November 26, 2007

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I am a resident of Barrington, Illinois. My home, where my family and I have lived for four years, is less than a quarter mile from the railroad tracks that run through Barrington. We are aware that Canadian National Railway Company had proposed a project that would bring at least 15 more trains per day down those tracks, in addition to significant infrastructure improvements in the coming years. My husband spent over ten years working for both class I and short-line railroads. We are very much aware of the benefits of rail traffic; however, I am extremely anxious about the negative impact this will have on our village and community. Obviously, the increased noise will be a nuisance. More importantly, the drastic increase in traffic will affect my quality of life and the quality of the environment in my community.

We moved here primarily for the excellent schools and safe, convenient community. My children cross these railroad tracks at least twice a day by bus to school. To reach basic needs (grocery, banking, post office), a minimum of 3 crossings of the tracks each way is necessary. More importantly, a train in a crossing will make emergency services delayed by 6-10 minutes. I am a registered nurse, and there is no argument in the fact that time saves lives. If we are to see at minimum 20 trains per day, it means these crossings will be blocked for approximately 3 hours of each day. If I am unable to use my town, then we will certainly loose the patronage of other neighboring towns. I am very anxious to think of the economic impact this will have on our village and schools, and terribly saddened by the potential loss of value of this wonderful community. We have an amazing new park and preserve land immediately at these tracks. I believe the increased traffic and pollution will have a detrimental impact on our wildlife and usage of these lands.

I have been informed that you are responsible for reviewing Canadian National Railway Company's proposal. I think that the effects I discussed above warrant serious consideration before you allow Canadian National to move forward. You hold the safety and well-being of not only my family, but that of an entire region in your hands. I trust that you and the rest of the Board will thoroughly review Canadian National's proposal for any and all effects on the environment and affected communities. Thank you for the thoughtful consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,



Jeanine Chapman  
702 Bent Ridge Ln.; Barrington, IL 60010